

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Official Action dated June 28, 2010.

Claims 1-22 were pending in the application.

Claims 1-22 were subject to a restriction requirement.

By way of this amendment, the Applicant has amended claim 1.

Claims 1-22 remain pending in the application.

Extension of Time:

An extension of time is enclosed, extending the period for reply from July 28, 2010 to August 28, 2010.

Restriction:

The Examiner set forth that the application contains claims directed to more than a single species of the generic invention and required an election of species.

More specifically, the Examiner identified 10 separate species as follows:

Species A1 through A10 respectively as shown in Figs. 1-10, each figure illustrating a distinct species.

Election with Traverse:

The Applicant hereby provisionally elects to prosecute species A6 as shown in Fig. 6 and currently covered by claims 1 and 4-8.

Applicant traverses the Restriction on the grounds that amended claim 1 allowable and is generic to at least species A1 and A3-A9.

Unity of invention requires a national stage application to relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single inventive concept. Unity of invention shall be fulfilled where there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding technical features. As filed, the Examiner identified the special technical feature as an apparatus for retaining a filter cloth with an

edge strip member with means for engaging a complementary part of a frame member and pressure exerting means to provide engagement. However, the Examiner's position is that this does not provide an inventive step of over the prior art, namely Junker (EP 636397).

We have observed that in Junker, part of the edge strip always provides the pressure exerting means for pressing the elongate body of the edge strip into engagement with the complementary part of the frame. In Junker's figure 1, a pressure exerting means could be said to be provided by the resilient prongs, whereas in figures 3 and 4, there are various other exerting means in the form of resilient shapes of the edge strip for pressing into a complementary (shaped) part of the frame.

In contrast, we believe that in the present invention, as shown by figures 1 and 3 - 9, the pressure exerting means is separate from the elongate body. In this respect, we have identified the relevant parts as follows:

Figure	Pressure engagement part No.	Part separate from edge strip?
1	22	yes
2	22	No - connected to body 14 by 24
3	25	yes
4	29	yes - inserted and removed from oval part 14
5	44	yes
6	62	yes
7	114	yes - wedge is separate from 110
8	111	yes - wedge is separate from 110
9	106	Yes - spring 106 is separate from 110
10	110/121	No - 110/121 is integral with edge strip

The pressure exerting means being separate from the elongate body is inventive over an integral pressure exerting means, because the pressure exerting means can be applied after engagement and removed before disengagement, making engagement and disengagement easier, but without compromising the security of the engagement.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended by inserting the wording "*whereby the pressure exerting means is separate from the elongate body*", as supported by paragraph 0007 of the published US application. At least the embodiments shown in figures 1 and 3 - 9 now relate to the same inventive concept.

Regarding the remaining dependent claims, only claims 16 and 17 would be at odds with the inventive concept as defined by the proposed amended claim 1 and so, these could be withdrawn. The rest of the original claims 1-15 and 18-22 relate to at least one of the embodiments as encompassed by amended claim 1.

In light of the amendment to claim 1 and the remarks above, Applicant traverses the restriction requirement and requests examination of Species A1 and A3-A9 along with claims 1-15 and 18-22.

Otherwise, Applicant hereby provisionally elects to prosecute species A6 as shown in Fig. 6 and currently covered by claims 1 and 4-8.

The application is now believed to be in proper form for favorable consideration on the merits.

Corresponding action is respectfully solicited.

PTO is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our account #02-0900.

Respectfully submitted,
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